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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/722,473

11/28/2003

Andrew F. Knight

7986

42067 7590 06/07/2007  
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EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/07/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Request for Information Under 37 CFR §1.105*

1. This is one of four related applications (applications numbered 10/722,473, 10/846,544, 10/861849 & 10/869,082). In each of these applications, Applicant seeks to obtain a patent for a fictional plot or storyline. Applicant has acknowledged that in doing so, he seeks to open up an entirely new area for patent protection. It therefore behooves the Office to have all of the facts concerning the case before rendering an opinion regarding patentability.

2. Furthermore, storytelling is of immemorial antiquity. Throughout recorded history, man has told stories. No doubt storytelling antedates recorded history. One can easily imagine our Neolithic ancestors lounging about the cave spinning yarns.

3. The point is that for tens of thousands of years, people have been telling stories. Each of these stories has had a plot. None of these plots will appear in the patent literature. Nor is it possible for the Examiner to search more than a miniscule portion of the prior art – certainly no meaningful search can be accomplished without further information.

4. Therefore, in order for Examiner do an adequate examination of Applicant's invention, Examiner requests the following information:

- a. Whether a search of the prior art was made, and if so, what was searched.
- b. A copy of any non-patent literature, published application, or patent (U.S. or foreign), by any of the inventors, that relates to, or has a plot/storyline similar to, the claimed invention.
- c. A copy of any non-patent literature, published application, or patent (U.S. or foreign) that was used to draft the application.

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- d. A copy of any non-patent literature, published application, or patent (U.S. or foreign) that was used in the invention process.
  - e. Identification of any use of the claimed invention known to any of the inventors at the time the application was filed notwithstanding the date of the use.
  - f. A copy of any publication of which the Applicant is aware concerning these applications.
  - g. Identification of any court case that Applicant contends provides legal precedent for a grant of patent rights to the application.
5. Examiner realizes that it may prove difficult to provide some of the non-patent literature that might have been used to develop the plots in question. For instance, it might not be practical to submit an entire novel or a motion picture in response hereto. In those cases, Applicant should identify the non-patent literature and provide a synopsis of the plot or other pertinent information. If possible, Applicant should provide copies of any particularly relevant passages.
6. This Requirement for Information under 37 CFR 1.105 is made without an action on the merits and has a shortened statutory period of two months for reply. Applicant may extend the time period for reply up to six months in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a).

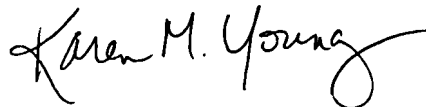
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30, Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Corbett Coburn/  
Corbett B. Coburn  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3714

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karen M. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

KAREN M. YOUNG  
DIRECTOR  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700